

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Original) An apparatus for fabricating a multi-fiber polarization-maintaining fiber assembly comprising:

a clamping jig and an orientation adjusting unit, the claiming jig including a ferrule clamping means for clamping a multi-fiber ferrule so as not to be rotated and an fiber cable clamping means for clamping polarization-maintaining fiber cables so as to be rotated, the orientation adjusting unit including an imaging means for imaging a leading end of the polarization-maintaining fiber cables held in the multi-fiber ferrule clamped by the clamping jig, an image processing means for identifying the orientation of each of the polarization-maintaining fiber cables based on each image of the leading end of the polarization-maintaining fiber cables, and an orientation adjustment controlling means for controllably driving the fiber cable clamping means to axially rotate each of the polarization-maintaining fiber cables for automatically adjusting the orientation of each of the polarization-maintaining fiber cables.

3. (Original) An apparatus for fabricating a multi-fiber polarization-maintaining fiber assembly according to claim 2, wherein the orientation adjustment controlling means is arranged to axially rotate the polarization-maintaining fiber cables and when a stabilization time has been passed, check the orientation.

4. (Currently amended) An apparatus for fabricating a multi-fiber polarization-maintaining fiber assembly according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the clamping jig includes a heating means for heating up the multi-fiber ferrule clamped by the ferrule clamping means, and the orientation adjusting unit includes a heatup controlling means for controllably driving the heating, after the orientation adjustment, to heat and cure the thermoset resins.

5. (New) An apparatus for fabricating a multi-fiber polarization-maintaining fiber assembly according to claim 3, wherein the clamping jig includes a heating means for heating up the multi-fiber ferrule clamped by the ferrule clamping means, and the orientation adjusting unit includes a heatup controlling means for controllably driving the heating, after the orientation adjustment, to heat and cure the thermoset resins.